



LEON COUNTY  
BOARD OF  
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

# Community gardens: keys to success and sustainability

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# COMMUNITY GARDENS

The background is a solid light green color. It is decorated with several white butterfly silhouettes of various sizes, scattered across the page. There are also several thin, white, concentric circles of different sizes, some of which are partially overlapping the text.

SITE LOCATION  
PHYSICAL LAYOUT/PREPARATION  
ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE  
GOVERNANCE  
FINANCING  
GARDENING RULES  
COMMUNITY BUILDING  
PROBLEMS/OBSTACLES  
SOME SOLUTIONS

# SITE LOCATION

- Need
- Sun
- Water Access
- School or Church
- Business
- City or County property
- Subdivision/residential
- Privately owned land





# PHYSICAL LAYOUT SITE PREPARATION

- Site Preparation
  - Clearing
  - Marking Plots
  - Dealing with Sod
  - Water Lines
- Raised Beds
- Plot Size
- Fencing/Security
- Shelter
- Storage
- Bathroom access
- Seating/rest areas









Second  
Harvest  
Garden

Demonstration Garden  
Leon County Ag  
Center







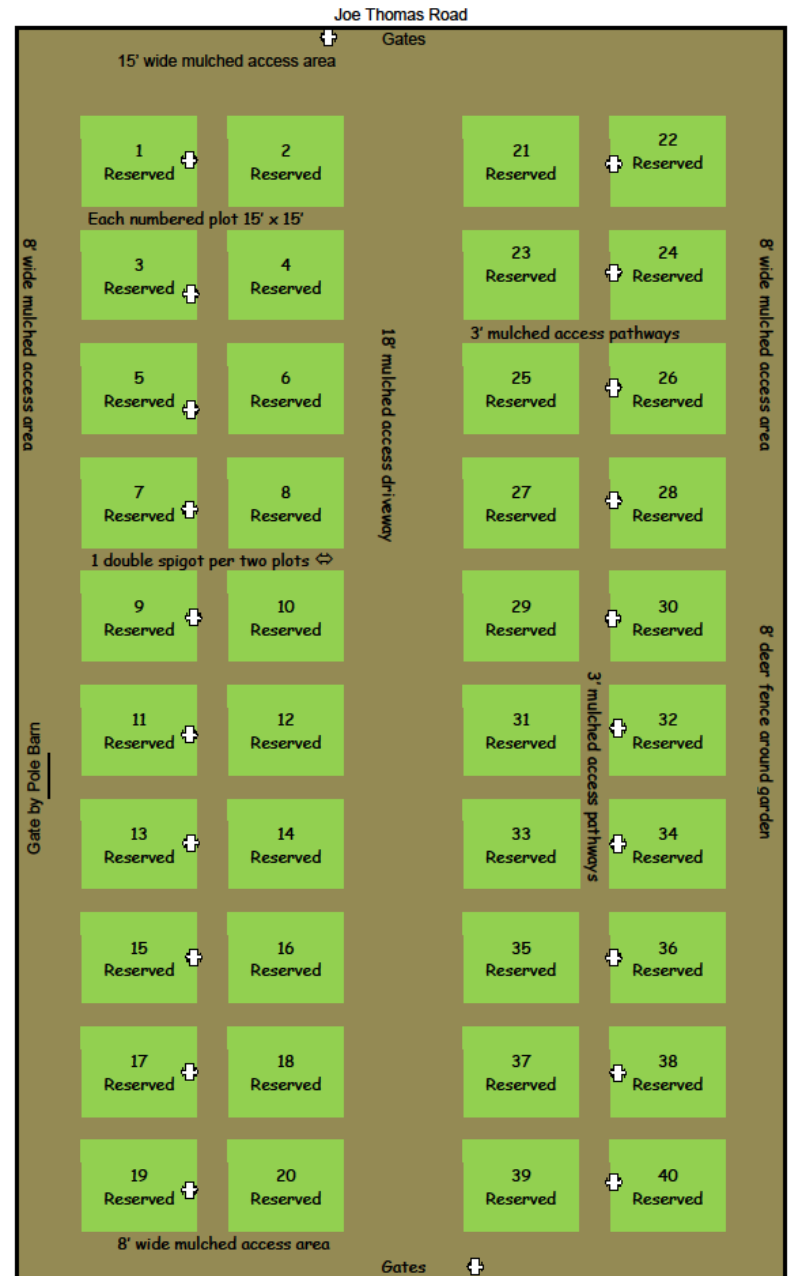


# Some of our summer gardens



# Fort Braden Garden Layout

- 40 garden plots
- 15' x 15' each
- Total garden size 100' x 200'
- \$30 per year per plot
- Organic fertilizer encouraged
- IPM (Integrated Pest Management) of pests and diseases required
- Drip/Micro Irrigation encouraged



FORT BRADEN COMMUNITY GARDEN – Overall dimensions - 100' by 200'



# ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

- Committee / Association
- Non-profit corporation
  - 501 (c) (3)
- Part of a larger entity
  - Church
  - School
  - Neighborhood Association
  - Governmental Entity

# GOVERNANCE

- Volunteers v. Election
- Officers?
- Managing Committee
- Garden Manager
- Bank Account
- Division of Duties/Depth of Management
- Majority/Consensus/Benign Dictatorship



# FINANCING

- Income
  - Plot fees
  - Grants
  - Fund Raising
- Outgo/Expenses
  - Garden Improvements
  - Beautification
  - Signage
  - Equipment
  - Soil Amendments





# GARDENING RULES

- Watering/Timers
- Water Conservation
- Fertilization
- Pest Control
- Plot maintenance
- Enforcement
- Gardening year/seasons



# COMMUNITY BUILDING

- Communication
  - Website/Blog
  - Facebook
  - Email
  - Telephone/Tree/Blast
  - Bulletin Board / Signs
  - Mailing
  - Word of Mouth





# COMMUNITY BUILDING

- Meetings
- Food
- Work days
- Charity donations
- Outreach/Education
  - Open House
  - Speakers
  - Field Trips
  - Demonstrations
  - Shared knowledge











# COMMUNITY BUILDING

- Orchard
- Beehive
- Bat/Bird houses
- Greenhouse
- Rain Barrels
- Compost bins
- Playground
- Picnic area





# Composting, Mulch



An element of  
IPM - Healthy  
Soil



Dry carbon rich  
material -  
Leaves, pine  
straw, hay,  
shredded tree  
trimmings



Combined with  
nitrogen rich  
material -  
barnyard animal  
droppings,  
vegetable waste



# Ft. Braden Open House









# PROBLEMS / OBSTACLES

- Vandalism
- Alcohol in garden
- Abrasive personalities
- Plot maintenance
- Too many projects/improvements
- Maintenance of amenities
- Gardener participation
- Vacant plots
- Waning interest

# SOME SOLUTIONS

- Communicate
- Collaborate
- Be flexible
- Tolerate differences
- Anticipate problems
- Don't over react
- Persevere





# And Our Vegetables







12/27/2011 1:37 am



# And Our Flowers















05/26/2011 12:15 pm



The background is a solid green gradient, lighter at the top and darker at the bottom. It is decorated with numerous white butterfly silhouettes of various sizes and orientations, scattered across the frame.

**QUESTIONS?**

# Elements of a successful Community Garden

